From: Lindstrom, Andrew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

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[/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

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Subject: "Legacy and emerging perfluoroalkyl substances in the Cape Fear River Watershed..." Manuscript

Attachments: ESTL\_0918.docx; ESTL\_SI\_0918.docx; Jim Starr 363 TMRF.pdf; John Offenberg 363 TMRF.pdf; Initial comments on

Sun et al. CFR manuscript.pdf; NERL Fact Sheet Mei Sun CFR PFAS Manuscript.docx

## All,

Here is the latest draft of our manuscript entitled "Legacy and emerging perfluoroalkyl substances in the Cape Fear River Watershed of North Carolina: Occurrence and fate during conventional and advanced water treatment processes," by Mei Sun, Elisa Arevalo, Mark Strynar, Andrew Lindstrom, and Detlef R.U. Knappe. We hope to submit this work to *Environmental Science & Technology Letters* within the next few weeks.

I have also attached copies of the two ORD 363 Technical Manuscript Review Forms (Jim Starr and John Offenberg) and a summary of all comments received on the initial draft of this manuscript (from Starr, Offenberg, Biales, Buckley, and Oshima).

We thank the reviewers for their careful reading and constructive comments. The manuscript (version from 9/18/16) has been substantially changed to accommodate most of these suggestions. Please also note that *Environmental Science & Technology Letters* has a 3,500 word limit so it was not possible to address every issue identified by the reviewers.

The following briefly summarizes the major changes made to the manuscript in response to the comments provided.

The EPA disclaimer has been added to the Acknowledgments section.

Details concerning sample collection and processing have been streamlined and clarified. Please note that while not stated directly, the Superintendents of each drinking water plant supported this monitoring effort and each has been asked to be a coauthor of this work. We remain undecided on whether or how to identify these communities.

Figure S4 has been added to address interest in variation of PFAS concentrations related to seasonal river flow changes.

It is important to note that standards for most of the new perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids (PFECAs) are not available making it impossible to do recovery or accurate quantitation estimations. We are confident however that qualitative statements about relative concentrations based on chromatographic peak area counts are both necessary and valuable given the uniformity instrument response with the PFAS and the historical precedent of using area counts as an indicator of concentration.

Finally, I have attached a draft copy of a NERL Fact Sheet for this manuscript. Please feel free to edit this in any way that may be necessary.

We would greatly appreciate an expedited review of this manuscript as our academic colleagues are eager to submit this to the journal.

Please let us know if there are any questions related to this work or the clearance process.

Thank you very much,

Andy